

On September 2, 2021, Granite Drug Center began providing curbside delivery to persons with COVID or exposed to COVID.

## MAKING HISTORY COVID-19

As COVID-19 cases rose, Governor Roy Cooper continued to encourage people to get vaccinated and to wear masks indoors. On September 21st, he publicly asked faith leaders to educate their congregants about COVID vaccines and to encourage them to be vaccinated. In addition, he asked each leader to be a "vaccine ambassador" by personally reassuring people that vaccines are safe and effective. The governor also expressed a desire for every house of worship to serve as a vaccination site.

On the Federal level, President Joe Biden reversed his earlier stance against vaccine mandates. On August 18th, he ordered the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to require nursing homes that receive Medicare and/or Medicaid funding to require staff to be vaccinated. On September 9th, he revised the orders to include all healthcare providers that receive Medicare and/or Medicaid funding. He also ordered the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) mandating that all businesses with 100 or more employees require workers to be vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)

## GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Fourth Annual Meeting Planned

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. will hold its Fourth Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum located at 107 Falls Avenue. The meeting, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will feature a short business session, reports from the Board of Trustees, and a program about local history. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to join the Association.

The Association will also collect dues for the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year which runs from November 1st through October 31st. Annual dues

(GFHA ANNUAL MEETING continued on page 2)



## HONORING OUR HEROES Back the Blue Ride 2021 and Remembering 9/11

Area residents honored our local heroes with two parades from Hickory to Lenoir. On Saturday, August 28th, Back the Blue from Caldwell sponsored a ride to honor law enforcement officers. On Saturday, September 11th, local emergency services personnel observed the 20th Anniversary of 9/11.

The Back the Blue Ride began at Xcel Fitness on Clement Boulevard in Hickory and traveled via Hwy 321 and Hwy 321A to the Caldwell County Fairgrounds, where there was an after party that featured food trucks and live entertainment. Funds raised during the event

(HONORING OUR HEROES continued on page 2)



testing. In addition, the President required all federal workers to be vaccinated as well as persons working for federal contractors. These orders face numerous legal challenges from states, businesses, and other organizations.

**Booster Shots:** The Biden Administration had set September 20th as the date to begin booster shots to persons who received either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago, but the FDA was still reviewing the research data. On September 24th, the FDA approved a request from Pfizer to administer booster shots to persons 65 and older and to adults ages 18 to 64 if they have compromised immunity or live/work in high risk places. The FDA has not ruled on a request by Moderna to administer booster shots. These shots would come six months after the second shot. Meanwhile, persons who are fully vaccinated with either Pfizer or Moderna can still receive a third shot if their immune systems are compromised.

**Schools:** Dudley Shoals Elementary School suspended in-person learning and went remote the week after the Labor Day Holiday (September 7th - September 10th) due to absences from COVID-19. They resumed normal classes on September 13th. The school system also cancelled high school football games scheduled for August 20 due to the virus.



Drive-thru COVID-19 testing as seen in Granite Falls on September 22, 2020

**Caldwell's Response to Rising COVID cases:** With COVID cases overwhelming its emergency room and urgent care centers, Caldwell Memorial Hospital reopened its drive-thru respiratory diagnostic clinic (RDC) near Walmart in Granite Falls on September 13th. Until further notice, the unit will operate from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Persons wishing to be tested just need to get line when the unit is open. They do not need a referral or an appointment. The RDC had closed in March 2021 after a year of service.

## NEWS FROM THE REC CENTER *Play Ball*

Registration for youth basketball (ages 4-12) begins at the recreation center on Monday, October 4th and will continue through Monday, November 8th. Visit the town's website ([www.granitefallsnc.com/recreation](http://www.granitefallsnc.com/recreation)) for up-to-date information.

## MEET YOU AT THE POLLS *Early Voting*

Voters in Granite Falls will choose a mayor and three members of the town council in 2021. Early voting will be held at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center week days between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Thursday, October 14th through Friday, October 29th. The polls will be open on one Saturday, October 30th, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The rec center will also be the voting site on election day - Tuesday, November 2nd. The hours will be 6:30 a.m. through 7:30 p.m.

(GFHA ANNUAL MEETING continued from page 1)

are \$12.00 per person, \$18.00 per family, and \$25.00 for groups (businesses and organizations). Persons unable to attend may mail dues to the treasurer, Adele Mangan. Her address is 33 Crestview Street, Granite Falls, North Carolina 28630.

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the history of Granite Falls, North Carolina and the surrounding area. Members are currently focusing on updating the town's history book, *Etched in Granite, the History of Granite Falls, North Carolina*. The original *Etched in Granite* was written by Maxine McCall and published in 1999 to coincide with the town's centennial celebration. The Association plans to complete the update to commemorate the town's quasiquicentennial anniversary in 2024. The Town of Granite Falls was incorporated on May 1, 1899.

(HONORING OUR HEROES continued from page 1)

benefited Caldwell County DARE and N. C. Concerns for Police Survivors.

On 9/11/21, local emergency services personnel drove their vehicles from Arby's in Hickory via Hwy 321 and Hwy 321A to Waterlife Church where there was a special service to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 and to honor first responders.

Linda Crowder recorded both parades as they traveled 321A through Granite Falls and posted the videos on the museum's Facebook page - Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum.





NCDOT put up "road closed ahead" signs at the corner of Pinewood Road and North Highland Avenue.

## **CLOSED FOR REPAIRS** ***North Highland Avenue***

On Monday, September 13, 2021, the North Carolina Department of Transportation closed North Highland Avenue to through traffic in order to replace the Billy Branch culvert that was damaged by heavy rains on Thursday, November 11, 2020. The road was closed until Tuesday, December 15, 2020 while the DOT made temporary repairs. Officials expect the permanent fix to be ready around October 9, 2021. In the meantime, motorists will detour via Pinewood Road and Hwy 321A or by way of Hwy 321 and Archer Street/Falls Avenue.

## **HELP WANTED** ***Must Have a Burning Desire To Help Others***

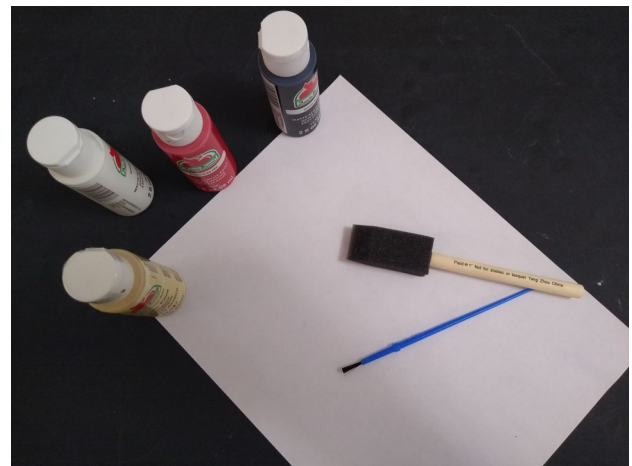
On November 4, 1903, a raging fire destroyed all but three downtown buildings. Men and women valiantly fought the blazes with the only tools they had - buckets of water. Although we have modern equipment today, one thing has not changed - the need for brave men and women to step up and take action. The Granite Falls Fire Department is accepting applications for volunteer fire fighters. If you are interested in making a difference in our community, check out [www.granitefallsncc.com/firevolunteer](http://www.granitefallsncc.com/firevolunteer) and then pay a visit to the Granite Falls Fire Department located at 119 North Main Street.

The Town of Granite Falls hired its first law enforcement officer during the first meeting of the Town Council in 1899. At the time, the town constable was responsible for tax collection, street maintenance, and oversight of the cemetery. In 1916, the council added two more duties - lighting the street lights and winding the clock in the park. As the town grew, other departments took on these duties so police could deal with actual crimes, civil complaints, traffic violations, etc. Today's police officers face myriad challenges and a complicated legal system. If you have what it takes to be a police officer, there is an application with more information on the town's website - [www.granitefallsncc.com/employment](http://www.granitefallsncc.com/employment).

## **NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE** ***Help with Food, Rent, and Utilities***

Low income residents of Granite Falls who need help paying for food, utilities, and rent may be eligible for financial assistance from a Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus Program (CDBG-CV) awarded to the Town of Granite Falls and South Caldwell Christian Ministries (SCCM). Western Piedmont Council of Governments assisted the town and the ministry in the application process. SCCM will administer the program. Qualified persons must live within the city limits, have an open utility account with the town, and meet the low income requirements for fiscal year 2021 set by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Persons who believe they qualify for assistance should call (828) 396-4000 for an appointment. Applicants must prove that they live in Granite Falls, meet the income restrictions, and show copies of past due utility and/or rent statements. Someone at SCCM will be available to assist applicants under the following schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.



## **READY! SET! DRAW!** ***Art Show at the Museum***

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum is seeking drawings, paintings, and sketches by local artists to exhibit from Sunday, November 7th through Sunday, December 19th. The work will be hung on pegboard display stands using S-hooks. Persons wishing to participate should take their art to the museum during October. The museum is open on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m. and at other times by appointment. For information about entering the show, call Linda Crowder at (828) 396-1066 or send an email to [lrdrcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lrdrcrowder@gmail.com).



# GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

## *We'll Pray to Keep Thy Portals Wide for All Posterity*



*Tablet II* is a publication of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. The purpose of the publication is to provide members with news and information about the Association along with articles and photos of historical interest. The purpose of the Association is to preserve and interpret the history/heritage of Granite Falls and Southern Caldwell County by historical preservation, publications, active museum and historical site programs, public meetings, and various activities related to these programs.

Contact the Editor: Linda Richards Crowder by phone at (828) 396-1066, by text (828) 496-2835, or by email [lrdcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lrdcrowder@gmail.com).

For more information about the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc and the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum, go to the website - [www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org) or the Facebook page under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum."